

School-Based Oral Health Programs

Providing Dental care to high-risk children throughout West Virginia



Oral Health Program

In West Virginia, the Department of Health funds school-based oral health programs that offer a variety of dental services in preschools and schools with a high number of children from low-income households. All programs provide services to prevent tooth decay such as fluoride treatments and dental sealants while some programs provide restorative services such as fillings.

Dental Sealants

Dental sealants are thin coatings painted on the chewing surfaces of the back teeth to prevent cavities. Sealants protect the teeth by covering them with a protective shield that blocks germs and food. School-based programs are an effective way to deliver sealants to children who are less likely to receive private dental care. Programs that deliver sealants to children at high-risk for tooth decay save money. Each tooth sealed saves more than \$11 in dental treatments costs.

The Numbers

317

The number of preschools and schools with an oral health program in SY2023-2024

7,984

The number of children served by school-based oral health programs in SY2023-2024

17,444

The number of teeth that received a dental sealant through school-based health programs in SY2023-2024

Description of Children Served

PK-12

The grade range of children served by school-based programs during SY2023-2024

82%

The percentage of children served by school-based programs that were eligible for Medicaid during SY2023-2024

6%

The percentage of children served by school-based programs that had no dental insurance coverage during SY2023-2024

Data Source: West Virginia School-Based Children's Oral Health Programs

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